



In The Perfins Bulletin for April 1993, Joseph Laura lists 2,060 (approx) perfins found on the 2c red Washington head (Scott #332 and related issues). This is the result of an admirable long term project but I was intrigued by the comment -



"In all probability no other stamp issue in the world has had as many different patterns used on it as this one does."

Having just finished the latest set of updates for the current Illustrated GB Catalogue I can report that some 21,450 different perfins are now known on GB postage stamps. This large number of patterns coupled with the long lives of some of the GB issues led me to believe that Joseph's total could be beaten, but could I prove it? The simple answer to that is no, not yet, but I could at least make a reasonable prediction.

Recently I have been recording details of stamp issues, denominations, postmarks etc. for a number of GB perfin letters in readiness for the *New* series of Illustrated Catalogues planned to start in 1994. The initial batch for which I have detailed information covers 1,568 dies, and represents about 75% of the dies known on those particular letters, and so should form a reliable guide as to what can be expected from the remaining letters. Tabulated below are the results of an *Issue count* of these dies. The figures in square brackets are the pro-rata predictions for all 21,450 GB patterns.

QV 1d Red	90[1231]	QV 1d Lilac	382[5226]
QV Jubilee	388[5308]	E7 Definitive	618[8454]
G5 Downey head	254[3475]	G5 Typograph	535[7319]
G5 Photogravure	282[3858]	E8 Definitive	192[2627]
G6 Dark Colour	461[6306]	G6 Light Colour	222[3037]
G6 Changed Colour	83[1135]	E2 Wilding	172[2353]
E2 £sd Machin	44[602]	E2 £p Machin	41[561]

So it would seem that over half of these issues have the potential to surpass the 2c: Washington total, with the inland letter rate of the day a likely candidate for the most common value. Encouraged by these figures, I carried out another analysis on the 1,568 dies, but this time against each issue I kept a tally of each value encountered. Although this proved to be somewhat tedious, it did produce some interesting figures. The 'Top Dozen' results for this *Value count* are shown below, with the pro-rata predictions in square brackets.

1.	E7 Definitive	(1902-1911)	1d	429 [5869]
2.	QV 1d Lilac	(1881-1902)	1d	382 [5226]
3.	E7 Definitive	(1902-1911)	½d	330 [4514]
4.	G5 Typograph	(1913-1934)	½d	275 [3762]
5.	G5 Typograph	(1912-1934)	1d	271 [3707]
6.	G6 Dark Colour	(1937-1942)	1½d	258 [3529]
7.	G6 Dark Colour	(1937-1941)	½d	248 [3393]
8.	QV Jubilee	(1887-1902)	½d	187 [2558]
9.	G5 Typograph	(1912-1934)	1½d	184 [2517]
10.	G5 Photogravure	(1934-1936)	1½d	182 [2490]
11.	Downey Head	(1911-1913)	1d	181 [2476]
12.	QV Jubilee	(1887-1902)	2½d	178 [2435]

Thus, the most perfinned GB stamp is likely to be an Edward VII one penny, in use for just under nine and a half years. However, we will not have confirmation of this until the new series of Catalogues is complete in about ten years time so Joseph's record may well survive into the next millennium!

In complete contrast, I recently came across a perfinned copy of the definitive sized GB stamp commemorating the 46th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference held in London in 1961. The stamp has the perfin T.B.B. (T0370.01) and is the first perfinned example on this issue that I have seen in a decade of perfin collecting.



Is this a true reflection of it's scarcity as a perfin or have I just not been looking hard enough? I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of other perfins on this issue.

Noted in Other Publications

From: *The Perfin Society Bulletin*

We are fortunate to have Roy Gault as a member of both The Perfin Society and The Perfin Club. Roy (#3000) is the Catalog Editor of *The Tompkins Catalog* and is noted for research on perfins found on the British one penny red with letters in all four corners. Roy's article "The Most Perfined Stamp Issue in the World?" appeared in the October 1993, issue of *The Perfin Society Bulletin*. It is reprinted below:

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12. QV Jubilee (1887-1902) $\frac{2}{3}$ d 178[2435]

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